

[REDACTED]

24 July 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

VIA: Chief, Central America Branch
Middle America-Cuba Division
Office of African and Latin America Analysis

FROM: [REDACTED] Military Analyst
Central America Branch
Middle America-Cuba Division
Office of African and Latin America Analysis

SUBJECT: Explosions at the Central American University

1. Four bombs exploded Saturday at the Jesuit Central American University in San Salvador, seriously damaging printing facilities, but injuring no one. [REDACTED] No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts thus far, but school officials suspect rightist groups. [REDACTED]

2. The Jesuit university serves as a think tank for radical leftists in El Salvador, [REDACTED] and has consistently lent political support to that country's Marxist insurgents. The university's rector, Ignacio Ellacuria, also maintains close contact with the guerrilla hierarchy and [REDACTED] played an active role in the development of one of the rebels' five factions. [REDACTED]

3. The Jesuits in El Salvador are staunch proponents of Liberation Theology--which attempts to merge traditional Catholic doctrine and Marxist dogma--and were responsible for the education of several guerrilla leaders during the 1960's and 1970's. [REDACTED]

4. El Salvador's other major university, the University of El Salvador, has long been a center for more violent insurgent activity, with rebel-backed student groups using the campus as a training base, source of recruits, arms depot, and staging area for attacks in the capital. Last week, for example, students at the university incited an armed confrontation with government troops who have been manning security checkpoints at entrances to the campus. [REDACTED]

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Approved for Release

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